



WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Field Operation Rule Interpretation

Question: Can a licensed operator add cash or merchandise to card games as prizes?

CITE: WAC 230-40-010 and WAC 230-12-045

Summary

Issue:

Additional cash or merchandise prizes may be added by operators to certain card games, non-proprietary and proprietary games are treated differently.

Reasoning/Decision:

Additional merchandise or cash prizes may be added by operators to non-proprietary card games like Blackjack or Pai Gow, in addition to the normal payouts for such games. This is considered a gambling promotion and is subject to the limitations imposed by WAC 230-12-045.

Additional merchandise or cash prizes may be added to proprietary card games, (games for which casinos pay a fee to operate, i.e., Let It Ride or Three Card Poker) with the approval of the company that owns the rights to such games. Such approval must be submitted by the company in the form of an alternative pay-table that includes the additional or revised prize payout, to commission staff for review and approval. These revised pay-tables will then be available for all casinos in Washington to use. These approved prizes become part of the game rules and are considered prize payouts on the game. Because of this, they are not a gambling promotion.

Approved: Cally Cass
Cally Cass, Assistant Director
Washington State Gambling Commission

Date: 7/22/05